

Minutes
Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships Meeting
Thursday, November 3rd, 2016
11:30am – 2:30pm
CHEER Community Center
20520 Sand Hill Rd.
Georgetown, DE 19947
United States

Attendees: Doug Gerdts, Pramod Mathur, Jennifer Hill, Max Wolf, Michael Beals, Kenneth Foster, Flora McConkie, John Sykes, Jeanne Cashman, Rich Walton, Steven Boone.

Guest: Usman Sandhu

Lunch began at 11:30am. Doug called the Event to order at approx. 12:30pm.

Today's Interfaith Dialogue Event: Approx. 41 attendees. 53 total in attendance including Council members. Weather was beautiful. Guests were very lively and friendly. Council expressed satisfaction with venue room size, layout, and overall atmosphere. Food was well received even with the vegetarian crowd. The food dishes were all entirely made from scratch by the in-house chef at the CHEER center which included: garden salad, baked ziti, rolls, green medley, apple crisp, tea, water, and coffee. The speaking order for the questions was mixed up for added fun. Representative Peter C. Schwartzkopf attended the event momentarily and spoke briefly on matters of issues in the local and presidential elections, concerns over state matters with the people, infrastructure concerns and senate support, viewpoints on the Governor, and gave praise to the faith-based communities on their service given to the community and expressed personal gratitude towards faith-based as well. The flow of the event was seamless and improved upon from the previous spring dialogue. Guests were much more participative in asking questions this time around. Some questions included:

- What do Mormons believe about Eve and the Fall? (LDS)
- Do Mormons believe that Satan and Jesus are brothers? (LDS)
- Can a Hindu move out of a caste that they were born into and into a higher caste? If so how? (Hinduism)
- What are the misconceptions about untouchables and laborer casts? (Hinduism)
- Can you give us a translation of your daily prayer? (Islam)
- Does your religion believe in Natural Law? (common misconception of what life is all about) (Panel)
- What is the greatest challenge for religion? (Panel)

Panel questions ended right on schedule. Michael put out an invite to all guests for the Nov. 16th Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration event. Closing remarks and thanks were given at 2:21pm.

Seating and guest amount was estimated very well. A concern was noted for future events on distance of handicap accessibility and wheelchair availability. The venue organizer Judy was very warm and receptive to our needs, invited us back to use the facility in the future if desired.

Next Meeting: Will occur on Wednesday November 16th at our Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration event at 7pm at First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, DE. Our next official Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 29th at the Smyrna Rest Stop from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. There is still a tentative date for the first meeting of 2017 to be sometime in the second week of January.

Meeting between Council adjourned at approx. 2:30pm.

Submitted by Steven Boone, Secretary, November 15nd, 2016.